

From: [Tricia Pfeiffer](#)
To: [Kyle Olson](#); [Adam Eisele](#); [Johanna Miller](#); [Chris Poulet](#)
Subject: Fw: air concern
Date: 03/14/2012 11:11 AM

FYI...Jacki's response to the state

Tricia Rios Pfeiffer, Engineer
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency-Region8
Watershed & Aquifer Protection Unit
1595 Wynkoop Street
MC: EP-EPR
Denver, Colorado 80202

P: 303-312-6271
P: 866-457-2690 ext 312-6271
F: 303-312-7206

----- Forwarded by Tricia Pfeiffer/R8/USEPA/US on 03/14/2012 11:10 AM -----

From: "jacki" <jboid@dia.net>
To: "Semerad, Jim L." <jsemerad@nd.gov>
Cc: Tricia Pfeiffer/R8/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 03/14/2012 11:08 AM
Subject: Re: air concern

The problem seemed to be coming from the south yesterday, although the air quality is almost as bad today. I am not sure what is to gain by just checking wind direction without doing any testing with canisters and the hand held meter used by the ND Health Dept tells us absolutely nothing -will not even detect the gases we are dealing with. I ordered 2 more suma canisters today, seems the flare being out at the Oasis well site has not solved any problems out here, I suspect there are still gasses coming off that site and others in the area. I had a meeting yesterday with environment company, the fact that the flare is does not mean gases are not still being released, these systems fail quite often and it is possible we are getting even more gas than before, I suspect this may be what is going on. Steve has extensive knowledge on this operation, and is probably one of the most experienced techs in this area he also said this is a very poor system and if not installed and checked properly it has high failure rate. He has found a very high percentage of sure fire system in the area he works not working properly, not even installed correctly. Seems the equation of many wells, many inexperienced and untrained personnel working in the field equals disaster in this case.

The expense of testing we have been forced to do to find the cause of this problem as gotten quite out of hand, The cost of just 1 air test is over \$600.00, I do not think it is right that a private land owner should have this burden when it is the responsibility of the state to ensure this industry is safe to the public.

----- Original Message -----

From: [Semerad, Jim L.](#)

To: [Tricia Pfeiffer](#) ; [Schumacher, Tom O.](#) ; [jacki](#)
Cc: [O'Clair, Terry L.](#)
Sent: Wednesday, March 14, 2012 11:41 AM
Subject: RE: air concern

Fyi:

In response to the complaint below, we have contacted Oasis and reviewed meteorological information over the period in question (see email below).

Based on this information, it does not appear that there is an obvious source of air contaminants that may be the cause of the problem. This is contrary to the information provided in the email (pipeline issue). We will conduct an air quality complaint inspection the next time we are in the area, as we have done in the past. However, our inspections have not shown problems (measurements or odors) so we have not been able to find the problem or provide any solutions to any of the issues that Jacki has complained of that relate to ambient air quality.

Also note that, with the likelihood of dry conditions and the traffic on dirt roads, we expect more road dust this year compared to last. The Department is studying various dust suppressants to determine what is best from an environmental standpoint.

Tricia: Please forward this information to other interested EPA personnel that may be involved.

Jim Semerad

Division of Air Quality

State Dept. of Health

(701) 328-5188

jsemerad@nd.gov

Division Website:

<http://www.health.state.nd.us/AQ/Airhomepage.htm>

Jim,

The Williston data shows that winds were calm from midnight 3/12 on Sunday evening through Monday morning then winds became strong from the west with gusts up to 39mph

all afternoon until 7pm. Monday evening through Tuesday 3/13 morning winds were calm until 9am. After 9am to present time Tuesday morning, the winds were from the south, southeast and south/southeast at 4mph to 9mph.

The Oasis well is located west of the residence and is tied into a gas line so the flare should only operate when the gas line or compressor station is down for repairs. Winds were very strong all afternoon yesterday. The frac job on the well 3 miles to the east of the residence is not upwind from the residence and should not affect the residence.

*Todd Peterson, CHMM
Environmental Scientist
ND Dept of Health
Division of Air Quality*

From: Tricia Pfeiffer [<mailto:Pfeiffer.Tricia@epamail.epa.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2012 11:24 AM
To: Schumacher, Tom O.
Cc: Semerad, Jim L.
Subject: Fw: air concern

Tom,

Is there someone in your shop that can help with air concerns? Jim Semerad from Dept of Health has been involved, however to the best of my knowledge he has not collected any samples via soma canisters. I believe the extent of sampling has been conducted using a hand held meter. This has been an on-going concern.

I will call you shortly :)

Tricia Rios Pfeiffer, Engineer
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Denver, Colorado 80202

P: 303-312-6271
P: 866-457-2690 ext 312-6271
F: 303-312-7206

----- Forwarded by Tricia Pfeiffer/R8/USEPA/US on 03/13/2012 10:11 AM -----

From: "jacki" <jboid@dia.net>
To: Tricia Pfeiffer/R8/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 03/13/2012 06:05 AM
Subject: air

I know you are not air quality, but I seem to get to response from that department. I do not understand what is going on out here, the flare behind me is out some days and burning some days, but our air doesn't seem to get any better. It was terrible all night, I got very little sleep and this morning my head is just pounding and my cat is vomitting yellow slime. I know there is a frack job in process down the road to the east but that is about 3 miles away. I have always questioned if there is a pipeline leak out here somewhere, the gas is that bad.